



Washington, D.C. 20530

MEMORANDUM FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *JS 6-7-16*

THROUGH: THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL *BS*

THROUGH: Lee J. Lofthus
Assistant Attorney General
for Administration *5/12/16*

FROM: Beatrice Hanson *BH*
Principal Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women

SUBJECT: Re-Charter of the Task Force on Research on Violence Against American
Indian and Alaska Native Women

PURPOSE: To obtain the Attorney General's approval of the re-charter of the Task
Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska
Native Women, hereafter referred to as the "Task Force."

TIMETABLE: As soon as possible before October 28, 2016 when the current charter
expires.

DISCUSSION: Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005)
required the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to develop and implement a program of research
on violence against Indian women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault,
stalking, and murder. The program of research will evaluate the effectiveness of the Federal,
state, and tribal response to violence against Indian women and will propose recommendations to
improve these responses. Title IX of VAWA 2005 also required the Attorney General to
establish a Task Force to assist NIJ with development of the research study and the
implementation of the recommendations. The Task Force qualifies as a Federal advisory
committee, and is therefore subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act
(FACA). The Section 904 Violence Against Indian Women Task Force was established by
Attorney General Mukasey on March 31, 2008 and Attorney General Holder approved re-
charters in 2010, in 2012 and in 2014.

The Task Force has held 6 public meetings announced in the Federal Register and issued advice and recommendations on NIJ's program of research. OVW and NIJ are coordinating to determine when the next meeting of the Task Force should occur based on the status of the projects that comprise NIJ's program of research and the need for input from Task Force members. OVW is mindful of spending restrictions and as a result, OVW is exploring the use of video conferencing, webinars, and other technologies in a manner that would be open to public as an alternative to convening in-person Task Force meetings. Upon re-charter, OVW plans to coordinate with NIJ, Office of Tribal Justice and others to solicit new members who possess an extensive and diverse understanding of the nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and murder committed against American Indian and Alaska Native women and research regarding effective responses to these crimes. Their advice during the ongoing development and implementation of NIJ's program of research will be critical.

Pursuant to federal statute, Federal advisory committees expire two years from establishment unless they are renewed. The Task Force is set to expire on October 28, 2016. We have conferred with NIJ and we recommend that the Task Force be re-chartered for another 2 year term.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that you sign the attached charter to continue the work of the Task Force. This action would give the Task Force a two-year period in which to operate.

APPROVE:


Dated: June 20, 2016

DISAPPROVE: _____

OTHER: _____

Attachment:

Charter for the Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women